PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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FOR WALTER WALLACE JR., SMASH RACIST POLICE TERROR

From Philadelphia to Minneapolis, Black, Latin, Asian, and white working-class youth are reminding us that change happens in the streets, not in the bosses' ballots. Our main goals: build a militant antiracist movement armed with multiracial unity and Black working-class leadership. Join PLP to fight for a communist world where worker's lives, not profits, matter.

PHILADELPHIA, October 31—When the kkkops fired 14 shots and murdered our class brother Walter Wallace Jr., over a dozen workers answered the Progressive Labor Party's call to bring solidarity to the masses of protesters here. This action reaffirmed the necessity of multiracial unity and international communist politics as a pivotal force for smashing racist terror. In PLP, we fight to win ourselves and the working class to build class consciousness through the lessons learned from participating in antiracist working class uprisings.

While the bosses' media agressively promotes voting, politics based on identity, and racist divisions workers in Philly fought back against the racist murder-by-kkkop of 27-year-old Walter. Suffering from a mental episode, he needed medical workers, not the Klan-in-Blue. . This, along with the intensifying racist conditions in Philadelphia, sparked a rebellion ending in the destruction of the bosses' property.

Days before the election, presidential candidate Jim Crow Joe Biden turned his back on the masses in Philly when asked about his thoughts on looting at the nearby Walmart (NPR, 10/28).

Communists say workers' actions are a reaction to the looting or violence" that the ruling class inflicts on the international working class every day. Rightfully so, during the fiercest nights of the uprisings workers ripped down Biden signs making the connection that capitalist democracy cannot challenge police terror.

From Nigeria to Philadelphia, Black workers around the world are leading the fight of the international working class to make the link between racist police terror and capitalism. This revolutionary working class impulse will be attacked by one set of bosses against another unless this fight to smash the bosses' imperialist, militarized policing is transformed into an international working class fight for communism.

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

U.S. capitalism still in decay; workers need communism

The U.S. presidential election—still undecided as we go to press—is exposing the chaos, decay, and decline of the U.S. ruling class for all the world to see. As arch-racists Donald Trump and Joe Biden jockey for power on behalf of the capitalist bosses' two warring camps, and vigilante "poll watchers" storm the counting center in Detroit, the end game isn't likely to be pretty. The world has changed since 2000, when the Democrats gave up on Al Gore and both parties still played for the same team. The stakes are much higher. The future of U.S. capitalism, the legitimacy of its democracy, the fate of the liberal world order—all may hang in the balance.

The U.S. empire is in free fall. As the pandemic rages unchecked in the U.S. and much of Europe, imperialist rival China, already the world's largest economy, is gaining ground by the day. The isolationist domestic energy bosses—led by the Koch and Mercer families, with Trump as their pathological front man—have hijacked the Republican Party and its base of white racists and nationalist thugs. The liberal finance capital globalists—the blood-stained bosses who have ruled the roost since World War II—are on the ropes. Which makes them even more dangerous than before.

But while we can't predict the final outcome of the capitalists' election charade, there is much we *do* know:

We know that capitalism breeds alienation. Despite a record-breaking election turnout, roughly one of three eligible voters—about 80 million workers—decided not to vote (USA Today, 11/3). Millions more went to the polls holding their noses, out of fear and loathing of Trump. They see Biden for the criminal he is: friend of gutter segregationists and killer cops, architect of racist mass incarceration, Middle East warmonger, and loyal wingman to Deporter in Chief Barack Obama.

We know that no matter who wins the election, the needs of capitalism will propel the U.S. to fascism and inter-imperialist war. After the bosses get their own house in order, and one wing smashes the other, they will escalate their murderous attacks on our class.

We know that the profit system, no matter who becomes president, can't protect workers' health and lives. For decades, Democrats and Republicans alike have shut down hospitals and gutted resources for public health. It's the same story worldwide, which is why hundreds of thousands are dying of Covid-19 in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Most of all, we know that it's more vital than ever to join and build Progressive Labor Party (PLP), to organize the international working class into a fighting force to destroy capitalism for all time.

Evil yes, lesser no

Leading up to the election, the liberal bosses drowned us in a message of lesser-evil politics. Though Biden wasn't perfect, they admitted, all that mattered was getting rid of the outrageously racist, sexist, and incompetent Trump. But in the current period, when the bosses can no longer govern in the old way, the job of the U.S. president—regardless of party or personality—is to manage the deepening contradictions of their system. For the bosses, fascism isn't a matter of choice; it's a necessity of capitalism in crisis. The difference between the rulers' two camps is strategic. The forces behind Trump, focused on short-term profits, are using open racism to mislead white workers, divide our class, and build a defensive, predominantly white, "Fortress America" armed forces. Biden's backers, the finance capitalists, seek to defend their embattled empire with a multicultural, patriotic movement and military that might prevail in a war with China.

The presidential election circus has exposed the fierce fight between these factions. The events of recent weeks reveal a U.S. ruling class in shambles: Trump's refusal to agree to the bosses' sacred "peaceful transition of power"; the Republicans' naked hypocrisy as they ramrodded anti-abortion zealot Amy Coney Barrett onto the Supreme Court; the fake moralizing from both sides about the other's corruption. The upshot is a loss of legitimacy: "[T]he very concept of public trust in an established set of facts necessary for the operation of a democratic society has eroded during [Trump's] tenure with potentially long-term ramifications" (New York Times, 11/1).

The liberal finance capitalists know that this lack of confidence by workers will doom their chances to defeat their imperialist rivals. They see this election as an opportunity to restore their power and save their system. They've used Jim Crow Joe Biden and Top Cop Kamala Harris to try to convince workers of the lie that capitalist reforms can eliminate racist police terror, economic ruin, imperialist war, and climate catastrophe.

The working class fights back

History tells us that positive change for workers is generated by class struggle and militant mass movements, not by voting. Slavery and Jim Crow, sexist employment and abortion laws, unlimited work weeks and legalized child labor—all were defeated through class struggle. Workers didn't vote in the advances of the civil rights movement. They didn't vote to annihilate the Nazis—or to defeat the U.S. war machine in Vietnam. In every case, masses of courageous workers fought their way to victory, often under the leadership of communists. Unfortunately, none of these historic battles struck at the heart of capitalism. As a result, nearly all of their gains have been reversed. PLP urges all workers to fight back—on the job, in the streets, in the schools. But we also need to transform reform struggles into an attack on the whole capitalist system.

In place of capitalism, we will build a communist society designed to serve workers' needs, not the bosses and their profit system. Workers are the ones who create all value! We're the ones who run the machines, fly the planes, care for the sick, teach our young. We can run society better than the bosses because we've been doing the real work all along. In a communist society, profit and money will be abolished. Everyone will be decently housed, fed, and clothed. In a worker-led society, racism and sexism—the capitalists' essential tools to divide and exploit us—will be outlawed. Our communities will be integrated and freed of borders. While individuals will be developed to their full potential, collectivity will be primary. As workers gain the time to explore and harness new skills, instead of being worked to death for the bosses' profits, creativity will flourish. Science will be used to create a healthy environment and advance all society.

The past six months prove that the working class has lost none of its fighting spirit. We're still fighting for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Walter Wallace Jr., Marcellis Stinnette, and so many more. We're fighting against all the racist inequalities ingrained in this rotten capitalist system. Whether or not you decided to vote, you have a more important decision in front of you: to fight back on your job, at your school, in your neighborhood. And the most important decision of all is to join the PLP, to help create a world where the Trumps and Bidens and their masters will never have power again.✪

LA: workers slam racist kkkops on the streets and in the courts

Los Angeles, October 17—Dozens of workers militantly took to the streets to protest the racist police murder of David Flores by kkkiller kops Andrew Do and Bryan Tahuite of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). In a magnificent show of solidarity, four other families of workers who have been murdered by these killers, came out to speak and support following the strong leadership of working-class women.

In the two days before our rally and march, the LAPD and the LA Sheriff's Department each killed two more workers. Despite massive multi-racial marches against racist cop terror in the LA area all summer, these ruling class-serving thugs continue to brutalize our class. Mass anti-racist actions are inspiring and essential. But, without a revolutionary communist outlook and plan for taking down and smashing the capitalist system itself, we will never achieve true justice for our class. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) aspires to do just that!

Families, workers, PL'ers fight for Flores to build antiracist movement

David Flores was the first person in his family to graduate high school and go on to college. He worked two construction jobs to support his two sons. Like many other workers, David's children were his inspiration and the reason he struggled so hard to make ends meet. His mother, Teresa, has taken up the fight for justice for her son.

Our protest began at the corner near where kkkops murdered David back on April 22, 2019. Workers warmly received us in this mostly Black and Latin neighborhood. As we rallied, passing cars slowed down to listen to our speeches, honked, and took copies of our flyer and CHALLENGE.

After our rally, about 30 of us began our march and caravan to the Southeast Station. As we approached, three kkkops approached us and tried to shut us down. However, a swarm of enraged and loud family members, PLPers, and protestors quickly surrounded the kkkops. Within minutes, they made a tactical retreat behind the automatic gate of their parking lot.

As we blocked the gate with our numbers, the cops frequently warned us in English and Spanish to leave or face arrest. We stood our ground. Three young workers who lived across the street began vigorously chanting "Black Lives Matter". We called out the contemptuous kkkops, who smirked at our chants. Meanwhile, we distributed literature and talked with workers who lived near the station. Several filmed our action. They were unanimous in their support.

Family members from each of the other four victims' families spoke on the bullhorn. The horrendous stories of their losses are heartbreaking, but, working-class anger predominated in response to their impassioned calls for justice. After two hours of rallying and shutting down the parking lot exit, we accomplished our goals for the day. We pledged to continue the battle to smash racism and, before leaving, warned the Southeast Station cops that they had not seen the last of us.

KKKops and kkkourts: partners in racist terror

Three days later, the weekly meeting of the Los Angeles Police Commission (LAPC) was scheduled to discuss the November 19, 2019 murder of Alex Flores. The LAPC basically rubber stamps police murders. They discuss the cases in "closed session." It is exceedingly rare for a killer cop to be disciplined when they murder one of our class.The LA City Attorney no doubt advises the LAPC to avoid findings that would in any way aid families filing civil rights lawsuits against the cops and the City.

Alex's family was determined to tell their story to the LAPC, PLPers and others joined them online. We witnessed a racist travesty. The LAPC said the day before that it would allot the family a total of 10 minutes to speak. But they were cut off after only six by the Commissioners sitting in their posh offices because we hadn't supplied them with the names of the family speakers the prior day. We notified them in advance that translation was needed for Alex's mother and father. Of course there was a "technical problem" and they didn't have translation services available. A substituted board secretary mangled what Alex's parents said, her translation deliberately leaving out statements like "all cops are racist".

Many other speakers supported the Flores family's struggles and sharply attacked the LAPC for persistently condoning the cops murders. But the klan-in-blue also organized themselves and their friends to speak. They attacked Alex and his family as "gang members", among other disgusting slanders. These are the same racist LAPD cops whose fellow officers have recently been exposed as fraudulently adding thousands of mainly Black and Latin youth to the "CalGang'' statewide database, subjecting targeted youth to enhanced charges.

PLP must continue to help lead the battle for justice for the family of Alex Flores and many others. The mainly women workers who lead these campaigns defy the sexist gender roles that capitalism imposes on our class. They are strong, smart and dedicated organizers of working-class fightback against racism. Through this work, more people understand the true role of the police in a capitalist society and see PLP as leading the fight against their murders. Communist ideas will become more widespread and the Party will grow. Only a communist society can eliminate the bosses' armed goons who protect private property and preserve the rule of the capitalists.✪

For Walter: smash racist police terror

Continued from page 1

Mass appeal of revolutionary communist CHALLENGE

An #EndSARS protest of more than 100 workers in Newark on October 17 boosted the confidence of NJ PL'ers planning our gathering in Philadelphia. The terror that Walter Wallace Jr.'s family and community is facing mirrors the state-funded repression families battle within Nigeria. In Nigeria the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) has kidnapped, raped, beaten and held hundreds of workers for ransom and killed them and their families if they failed to meet their extortionary demands.

In Philadelphia, Cathy Wallace had called an ambulance to help with her son who was having a mental health crisis and the parasitic capitalist system's response was armed police. The furious uprising that resulted was met with hovering helicopters, and the Democrat Mayor Jim Kenney imposing a curfew on the city twice and bringing in the National Guard.

PLP's main contribution at both protests was to share CHALLENGE newspaper and communist ideas promoting revolutionary, class-based multiracial unity. A PL'er told a worker, "You and I, as Nigerian and Mexican workers, have more in common with each other than we do with the rich in either country. Whenever any of us are attacked, all of the international working class has to rise up. That's what this paper is about."

The worker from Nigeria encouraged this message to be repeated on the mic in front of the crowd. In Philly, 100 copies of CHALLENGE were distributed among a multiracial group of 1,000 workers. Our chants "From Philly to Nigeria, Racist KKKops Have Got To Go" and "Asian, Latin, Black, and White—To Smash Racism, We must Unite'' emboldened other angry workers around us to fire up their voices.

Black and Latin working class families responded with cheers from porches and sidewalks in response to the antiracist chants and newspapers.

Multiracial unity is how we win

After the protest, an article from a previous issue of CHALLENGE was used to spark conversation around identity politics. Black, white and Latin workers conducted a study group, offering questions around Black leadership and a collective analysis of identity politics.

We struggled over whether politics with a class analysis should be primary. Identity-based leaders will only cycle workers into electoral politics and nationalism. New Jersey's Ras Baraka, Chicago's Lori Lightfoot, Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador, Jim Crow Joe Biden and Top KKKop Kamala Harris are no friends of our class. They only serve to win us over to nationalism and convince us to support U.S. bosses' in wars against their inter-imperialist rivals.

Communist politics mean nothing without base building

Regardless of who did or did not submit their vote for the lesser of two evils, the capitalist system will continue to hold workers's consciousness captive. Many workers—from Philly to Newark to Nigeria—are temporarily invested in liberal politricks and believe that those who fight to smash this system are naive. So base building in our communities for a long term struggle towards communist revolution is key. We must struggle and share communist ideas more frequently, not just react to the boss's most intense attacks. Rise together and revolt. Join PLP today!✪

Colombia: workers battle police terror and reformist ideas

COLOMBIA, November 1—In recent days, the working class has marched and protested once again. This is in response to the racist murders of over 150 social leaders this year and the recurrent police terror. While the rulers offer our class identity politics, we need nothing short of workers' power.

Militant fighters and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) participated to win workers to reject these bosses' attacks and the entire capitalist system. We distributed more than 300 copies of our party newspaper, DESAFIO, and organized with them to build ongoing struggles, strengthening our identity as workers and as an international revolutionary class.

In recent months, there have been 66 massacres, which led to demonstrations against the police. This response has left 15 dead and 300 injured, 100 of which were police. The mass injuries are a result of police shootings against the protesters whose only weapons are stones, sticks and banners.

As the working class takes to the streets to defend ourselves, the ruling mafias and the ruling class continue to divert more economic resources towards beefing up and arming their fascist police forces. They have also added 2,000 more to their task forces to oppress the new protests.

Limits of the reform struggle

This mass struggle is led by strike committees, women's groups, indigenous movements, peasant cooperatives, worker unions, student and artist associations, sports clubs, supportive neighbors, and political parties. The workers continue to fight in the reform struggles to demand that the bosses address their most immediate demands and the most basic of human needs. What we need is a united working-class movement under a communist leadership.

The current government of President Ivan Duqueand the fake leftists want to silence the growing workers' struggle using national identity politics. In this way, they take advantage of the divisions between the workers, calling on us to join them in defending the bosses' democracy. Furthermore, they want us to blame the protesters and characterize them as "destabilizing forces, guerrilla infiltrators and misfit bandits" who must be defeated with jails and bullets.

This is why we fight

The current climate is dark for our class. Under the yoke of the capitalist dictatorship, we will always receive repression and death. But our potential to build our Party and put an end to exploitation with the demolition of capitalism and build the dictatorship of the proletariat under the ideas of PLP and its communist line is strong.

That is why in Haiti, Mexico, India, the United States, Colombia and in other areas around the world , our Party fights to build a communist mass movement. We cannot rely on reforms or spontaneous uprisings alone.

That is why we must continue to work in many organizations, winning workers to break with the rotten leadership of reformists, liberals, warmongers, racists, sexists, and nationalists.

That is why, everything you do counts. Fight for communism. Join PLP.✪

College Conference

Students, workers expose capitalist dictatorship, open to a communist future

NEW YORK, October 24—"We've got to change the top, the middle and the bottom. We've got to get rid of the whole thing." This was the sentiment expressed by friends and members at the sixth annual Progressive Labor Party (PLP) College Conference, entitled "Communism, Covid-19 and The Fight Against Racism." The October 24 conference drew international and national participation from nearly 90 students and education workers. From the Bronx to New Jersey from Brooklyn to Puerto Rico, speakers strategized about fightback struggles on the City University of New York (CUNY) campuses and uniting student and worker struggles.

The opening speaker laid out the state of the world: increasing rivalry between the U.S. and its imperialist foes such as China and Russia is creating more volatility and a need for greater fascist control. The cutbacks on campuses are part of this trend, as local bosses prepare workers and students to accept worsening conditions. The speech ended on a positive note, as the many fightbacks that workers and students have engaged in were highlighted, and linked to the need for communist leadership to turn these fights into schools for communism.

Bosses' dictatorship exposed

One participant suggested that by getting rid of the top New York racists, Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo, things would be better for workers here. But regardless of who occupies city hall, the governor's office or the Presidency, cutbacks on college campuses, the continued needless deaths from Covid-19 and racist attacks on the homeless will continue(see article below). Instead, the nearly 90 attendees spent four hours discussing another approach: organizing the students and workers to join the revolutionary PLP to destroy the system entirely. During the breakout sessions, participants discussed Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin's theory of the state in relation to elections—that no matter which capitalist party is in charge, it's always a bosses' dictatorship under capitalism.

We also debunked the capitalists' use of bogus "white privilege" ideology as a means of co-opting and commodifying multiracial, antiracist workers' struggles. It is in the interest of all workers to abolish racism, a tool of capitalist division.

Finally, Da Homeless Hero, a leader of the struggle against de Blasio's racist attacks on homeless workers, closed the conference with a rousing call for all workers to unite and fight the capitalist attack on workers in the coronavirus era.

Students: to arms and revolution!

With college students facing rising homelessness—more than 25 percent of students at community colleges deal with homelessness and a full third face food shortages—it is all the more important that friends and members of PLP are in the streets and hallways of college campuses, uniting students, faculty, and workers to fight for communism. This is the only way we will get what we want and need as an international working class.

A central aspect of PLP's outlook is to make practice primary over theory, and so our final appeal was for every attendee to increase their engagement in fightbacks on campus or on the job. We invited everyone to participate in election day demonstrations and CHALLENGE sales to bring the ideas of the conference out to the masses of students and workers.✪

Capitalism, home of racist inequality

NEW YORK CITY , October 18—"Mayor de Blasio, you have committed a crime, a major injustice against Black and Brown people, in particular to the men at the Lucerne Hotel…You are a racist, and even worse than that guy in the White House!" That's what a New York City (NYC) homeless resident-leader had to say at a rally at the Mayor's residence at Gracie Mansion, where homeless workers from three temporary shelters and their supporters presented Bill de Blasio with the "Tale of Two Cities" Award, a fitting distinction for being the architect of racist displacement and homelessness.

As we fight to support the homeless men at the Lucerne Hotel, let's remember that homelessness and racism is endemic to capitalism. While we fight against homelessness, let's organize to get rid of the whole profit system. Join the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and build toward communism, where there is no homelessness and the working class runs society.

Because of pressure from the recently formed, racist West Side Community Organization (WSCO) the Mayor wants to transfer the more than 240 mostly Black and Latin homeless men, safely housed and socially distanced in the Lucerne Hotel, to a hotel in the Wall Street area. He ordered the men transferred, bowing to the demands of a handful of rich, racist businessmen and real estate owners, backed by former Mayor and top Donald Trump confidante Rudy Giuliani.

The WSCO claims 10,000 followers on Facebook, but they have never put more than a handful in the street and never filed their threatened lawsuit. By bowing to these racists, de Blasio encouraged another group of rich racists in the Wall Street area to go to court to prevent the men from being moved to the Financial District. Another group has formed in Hell's Kitchen.

Liberal politicians like de Blasio say they're for the working class, but really they serve the billionaire capitalists. They are "wolves in sheep's clothing." That's what makes them worse than "that guy in the White House." The whole racist profit system has got to go.

Lucerne residents have won a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) to stop the planned transfer, at least until another hearing scheduled for November 16. More than 50 Upper West Side (UWS) residents showed up to support our homeless brothers and if need be, to stop the City from moving them out before their case was heard. The City attorneys argued that the homeless men have no right to stay at the Lucerne, and no right to have a say in where they would be placed. The judge, for now, rejected both arguments.

Bosses' profits soar, workers' housing gone

There are about 700 homeless workers in four UWS hotels, and thousands more in 60 hotels around the city. In May 2020, there were 13,523 homeless families with 20,044 homeless children in the New York City shelter system, 90 percent of whom are Black and Latin. Thousands of unsheltered homeless people sleep on the streets, in the subway and in other public spaces every night. (CoalitionfortheHomeless.org).

Meanwhile, 118 billionaires increased their wealth by $77 billion during the pandemic and the Democratic Governor, Mayor, City Council and State Legislature won't touch them. With more than a million New Yorkers out of work and tens of thousands of families facing evictions next January, homelessness will spread faster than Covid-19. All of the Democratic mayoral candidates, City Council members and city-wide elected officials who have come to speak at rallies and press conferences have provided no help at all as the crisis of racist poverty and homelessness deepens. Talk is cheap.

The Upper West Side Open Hearts Initiative (UWS OHI) emerged out of the antiracist uprising this summer to defend the Lucerne residents, staging protests, marches on the Mayor's home, and organizing all levels of support from clothing distributions, to 12-step classes, and more, as a number of the residents suffer from substance abuse and/or mental illness.

PLP has been involved in this fight from the beginning, making new friends inside and outside the temporary homeless shelter. We are in this struggle to fight the racist attacks against our most vulnerable brothers, and to build the movement for communist revolution, to abolish racist inequality and homelessness.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Don't vote; organize and revolt!

As most of us in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) already know, making it known to family, friends, and co-workers that we oppose voting can cause us to catch a lot of flak. However, we should always stick to our guns, while respecting our working-class sisters and brothers by explaining why we as communists take this stance.

I had a conversation with my coworker friend this weekend before the election, and she asked me if I had voted yet. Naturally, I responded that I had not, and that I had no plans to. I've actually had many political conversations with this friend and she knows I'm a communist, so the answer wasn't as jarring as it might have been with someone else.

After a little back and forth, this friend admitted that she felt discouraged by the awful candidates on the ballot. She also said she was exhausted from what she felt was a "peer pressure" from her own family and friends to vote when she had a gut feeling that it wouldn't change things.

I assured her that her doubts were in fact shared by millions of workers in the U.S. and around the world, and that I had her back if she skipped the vote. We discussed how it was the open rebellion of millions of workers over the summer that had moved society forward, not these capitalist elections. We discussed that even if Joe Biden can make things a tiny bit better for workers in the U.S. (doubtful), he still would carry on the U.S. imperialist tradition and drop bombs on other workers across the globe.

Who knows how many other workers might face the same internal conflict? We must continue to position revolutionary communist politics and the Party as the only alternative to voting.

★★★★★

Disobey racist executive order & teach antiracism

I want to make CHALLENGE readers aware of President Trump's recent executive order (EO), named, "Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping." It's a strangely written attack on any antiracism training or discussion within the federal government and also applies to all government contractors or anyone who receives federal grant money.

Upon initially reading it, I thought since it seemed to be mostly objecting to "critical race theory" and identity politics teachings that it wouldn't apply to my antiracism teaching at work. Instead, its broad interpretations are halting discussions of racism and antiracism within the federal government. Veteran's Health Administration (VA) hospitals across the country have had to stop educational activities on racism and disparities in healthcare. The CDC had to cancel an event in September. The University of Iowa suspended all "diversity training" when this EO came out.

At my job, a central office is still auditing slides from my recent presentation on racism in healthcare. All the planned activities and education sessions at our VA hospital were canceled or put on hold. This order has had a chilling effect on our antiracism efforts.

People in our education department immediately started gathering materials so they could be audited for "divisive concepts" like "systemic racism" or "unconscious bias." Who knows how many government workers it will take to round up, audit, and approve (or disapprove) all of the educational materials speaking to racism in this capitalist society?

However, there are also employees organizing to continue their antiracist work. At my job, worker reaction varies. Some want to "wait and see" what happens with the election, presuming Joe Biden will win and overturn this EO. Others want to try to change the language we use to discuss these concepts and sneak these ideas past the censors. Others want to figure out how to parse the language of the EO so that we can somehow still do antiracist education without violating it.

The best approach, however, is uniting to fight back and disobey the order. We need to spread the word about this racist censorship among our coworkers, craft a mass petition or statement disagreeing with the order and plan to continue on with our antiracist work anyway. A campaign like this will take time to build and we are in the early stages. I will keep you all posted as things continue.

★★★★★

Break away from Al Sharpton's misleadership

Because the August 28 March on Washington was so important, a Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member and I wanted to share some lessons of that day.

It was the historic 57th anniversary of the huge 1963 Civil Rights march at which Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. (Keep in mind that Malcolm X - in his speech, "Message to the Grassroots" - accused MLK and others of selling out the '63 march.)

This march was also important as part of the current struggle against racial injustice, an abomination rooted in this capitalist system. In particular, the march was focused on the issue of police terror - horrifically exemplified by the police shooting of Breonna Taylor in her own apartment, and the brazen police lynching of George Floyd, whose portrait was held high by many marchers.

A key highlight was a breakaway march of hundreds of people to the Department of Justice. This grassroots-led action boldly demanded that all cases of police terrorism must be reopenedIt was necessary because the August 28th demonstration was misled by Reverend Al Sharpton, aka Al Sharpener. This guy is a poverty pimp, and also an FBI informer!! Sharpener announced to the world that he would be marching on Washington in light of the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. He loves chasing cameras.

On the other hand, our pre-march goal - for three groups: Boston's Mass Action Against Police Brutality (MAAPB), New York's Every Case Matters, and Baltimore's West Coalition, along with many families affected by police brutality - was to ask Rev Sharpener and his National Action Network to demand that this system reopen all the cases of police brutality and police murder, and vigorously prosecute the perpetrators. A PLP goal was to point out the total failure of capitalism for workers and to point towards a communist world run by the workers.

Organizers wrote Al Sharpener a letter and talked with one of his colleagues to no avail. We were ignored. Sharpener was basically determined to do a showcase of speeches, exploiting the families of a few of the more high-profile victims, to push for largely inconsequential legislative reforms about policing.

Meanwhile, he ignored most of the families - of police brutality victims - who were present on the 28th, but who have not been in the national spotlight. We waited in disbelief for the dog and pony show to end, so we could get many families and supporters to join our breakaway march, taking 97,000 signatures to the Department of Injustice (DOJ), demanding that every case be reopened, letting the world know that every case matters!

Many hundreds of people enthusiastically joined the breakaway march, and a participating member of Progressive Labor Party quickly distributed all 30 CHALLENGE newspapers that he had with him.

August 28th was a weekday, but the DOJ was shut tight. The government fears the powerful worldwide protests and uprisings against police terror. Faced with locked doors, breakaway marchers rallied in the street, and vowed to continue the struggle.

While poverty pimps ask for watered down reforms, we continue to demand cell blocks for killer cops and communism for the working class! We can't stop, and won't stop, until we win!!

Free Mohawk, Smash Racism

The police department has a really bad habit of killing Black people and then telling them how to react to it. Which is why we need to keep coming out here, because we can't let them make an example out of me. They want Black people scared… [But] they're (the cops) scared of people who aren't afraid of them."

— Mohawk Johnson

CHICAGO, October 30—Another spirited crowd of antiracist fighters packed the sidewalk yet again in front the Leighton courthouse at 26 and California. "Free Mohawk! Free Them All!" chants rang through the air as we continued to demand that these racist courts drop the eight felony charges against Jeremey "Mohawk" Johnson, an artist, organizer, and all-around great member of our class. This struggle so far has exposed how the rulers' cops and courts are the bosses' tools.

Mohawk was arrested during an anti-kkkop protest on August 15 and has been battling the bosses' racist legal system ever since (See CHALLENGE, 11/4). A number of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have been consistently helping to build the mass campaign in order to fight the bosses' racist attacks against Mohawk and all workers, and organize for international communist revolution.

Instead of receiving updates on progress within the case, our multiracial crew was given disappointing news: Mohawk had been given another court date and it would be two months from now, on December 29.

The judges would not hear Mohawk's attorney's argument for the removal of his electronic house monitor, which he has had to wear since being released from jail in August. Nor did they consider any of the over 200 character letters written on behalf of Mohawk from the community. The hearing was brief and rushed: Mohawk went in with his attorney, and all the judge did was give him a new court date. Mohawk is still facing the trumped-up charges for aggravated assault on a cop.

The judge's refusal to not take Mohawk off of house arrest as we approach the holidays is petty and abusive, but fits the style of the bosses' racist institutions. They want to try to break his spirit and the spirits of those supporting him, but they're bound to fail. For every attempt so far that they've used to undermine our support—from changing court locations to delaying hearings—we've come back bigger and louder. This is what antiracist fighters do, and we PL'ers are ready to give more fighting communist leadership to this struggle.

So if you are in Chicago, get your snow boots and coats because we will see you all on December 29 at 26 and California! Support Mohawk here https://linktr.ee/FreeMohawk✪

Big Fascism: first they come for their own, then they come for us

The October 21 Justice Department $8 billion settlement smashing the Sackler family's PurduePharma is an indication of the intensifying but still early-stage fascism the main imperialist wing of the U.S. ruling class is prepared to impose at this time.

PurduePharma developed and pushed the poison-pill Oxycontin throughout the 1990s and 2000s, deliberately misleading doctors and patients about this narcotic's addictive qualities (NY Times, 1/15/19). By 2018 ten million workers and youth aged twelve and up were abusing prescription painkillers (hhs.gov). The Sacklers amassed a $13 billion dollar family fortune along the way. Meanwhile the opioid crisis cost U.S. capitalism $2.5 trillion between 2015 and 2018 (whitehouse.gov), leaving millions unfit for work or military service and killing 400,000 since 1999 (BBC 10/22). The human wreckage written at the cost of depression, betrayal, broken families and premature death is one more reason workers ought to hate this system, and do.

Racist disregard met Black workers touched by mass addiction in the 1970s and 1980s, and once again an attack on Black workers was a preview for what capitalism had in store for all workers. Before Covid-19, mass addiction was a health crisis threatening the viability of the U.S. empire. Donald Trump's Justice Department will strip the Sackler family of control of their factories – a very big deal for these capitalists as their future profit-making capacity has been severely degraded.

The Trump Department of Justice is still operated at the mid-levels by 'deep-state' functionaries loyal to Big Fascism—like the State Department 'whistleblower' whose testimony was critical to the failed Nancy Pelosi/ main wing Trump impeachment effort of a year ago. This machinery will remain in place under a Joe Biden or Trump presidency and is the proving ground for early-stage fascism, where capitalists like the Sacklers might be stripped of control of their means of production, but left with a fortune in their hands.

EARLY DEATH
Warning: The Working Class Has Determined That Racism, Sexism, and Capitalism are Dangerous to Your Health.
Capitalism
100% PURE EXPLOITATION

Upcoming Congressional investigations to discipline pandemic-profiteering Big Tech firms may look like good news to workers, but are signs of growing fascism as sure as Trump's mass racist rallies or Biden/ Kamala Harris mass incarceration. Whether carried out by Trump or Biden workers cannot afford to be carried away by enthusiasm in seeing one set of murderous, craven exploiters attack another.

As major war with imperialist rival China moves closer, greater sacrifice will be imposed on all society, but on workers most of all. U.S. imperialists, the deadliest ruling class in world history, need unrestricted access to our labor on the home front and our bodies on the battlefield. To set the stage for such a social order the Big Fascists must attack members of their own class whose empire-eroding pursuit of profit undercuts the needs of U.S. imperialism.

We must keep our eye on the prize—a dictatorship of the proletariat that will banish exploitation of our class by sweeping the earth of profit-driven dope-pushers and imperialist warmakers once and for all. ✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Over 5,500 children torn from parents

NYT, 10/22 — Parents separated from their children at the U.S. border beginning in 2017 under the Trump administration's…immigration policy…still have not been found….

About 60 of the children were under…five when they were separated….with wrenching images of crying children being carried away from their parents…and detained hundreds or thousands of miles away…[and] have now endured years of separation….New data…brought the total of separated children to more than 5,500….Many…working with separated families said the federal government had put up one obstacle after another to reuniting families…. Most were forced by the family separation policy to make impossible choices.

One such parent, Juana, a mother of four girls… after being separated from her children at the U.S. border...fleeing Honduras…said their lives had been threatened…."The Trump administration has no plans to keep track of the families or ever reunite them…" said [the] legal director of Justice in Motion….

"…They kept the names from the court, from us, from the public….[ACLU lawyer] Lee Gelernt said.

Racist militias get bolder

NYT, 10/22 — The "militia movement"….term has taken on new meaning…. [as] more groups turned out in force during demonstrations against police brutality…. Members of armed groups have led to deaths in Kenosha, Wis., Portland, Ore. and Denver.

There are currently 181 active…paramilitary groups in the United States….Historians consider the Ku Klux Klan a militia….Using the word "militia"…was a deliberate attempt to attract a broader membership, by veiling the often racist, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant and homophobic origins of such groups….[which] include white supremacists, prison gangs, the tax protest movement, anti-vaxxers [and] skinheads.

Covid kills workers, bosses rake in billion$

NYT, 10/23 — OSHA…has announced fines for only two meatpacking plants for…less than $30,000. [While] JBS and…Smithfield Foods combined [were slated] to take in tens of billions of dollars worldwide last year.

[In] the meat industry…the virus has infected thousands of its workers — including more than 1,500 at [those] two facilities… — and dozens have died.

"The number of plants with outbreaks was enormous around the country," said David Michaels, an epidemiologist…. "But most OSHA offices haven't yet issued any citations."

….Trump signed an executive order declaring meatpacking plants…remain open during the pandemic.

….Under [a] new interpretation…an employer is no longer required to report a Covid-related hospitalization within 24 hours of learning about it. Instead,…only…within 24 hours of the worker's exposure to the virus on the job — timing that may be impossible to determine…..

"It's a way to guarantee you have no reports," said [a former OSHA head]. "They're telling employers: 'Don't worry. We're not going to make you do anything.'"

U.S. bankers screw world's workers

NYT, 11/2 — Pakistan was alarmingly short of doctors and medical facilities long before anyone had ever heard of Covid-19. Then the pandemic overwhelmed the hospitals….Families lost livelihoods and struggled to feed themselves.

…Two deep-pocketed organizations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), vowed to spare poor countries from desperation… [and] a humanitarian catastrophe….

[But] wages sent home to poor countries by migrant workers…have diminished…. Billions of people have lost the wherewithal to buy food, increasing malnutrition. By next year, the pandemic could push 150 million people into extreme poverty….

But the World Bank and the IMF have failed to translate their "concern" into meaningful support…. left [those needing]…to bolster health care systems and [to] aid people suffering lost income.

….The IMF and the World Bank…have marshaled…[an] anemic response…because…of their largest shareholder, the United States. The World Bank has required that borrowers regulate domestic industry to favor the private sector as a condition for loans….Developing countries…were spending enormous shares of their revenue on loan payments even before the pandemic….

…The pandemic has displayed…a bias toward ensuring that creditors get paid, even at the expense of wrenching spending cuts in poor countries… ."International financial institutions are going to leave countries in much worse shape than they were before the pandemic," said [the]…coordinator of the Asian People's Movement…

WHEN FASCISTS ATTACK, WE BEAT THEM BACK!

SAN FRANCISCO, October 17—Hundreds of antiracist fighters assembled on short notice today to stop a fascist rally dead in its tracks. When word went out that the racist, sexist Proud Boys planned a rally here, it was Progressive Labor Party's (PLP) revolutionary communist duty to be present, ready to fight back with our anti-fascist class sisters and brothers.

Yet the Proud Boys are small fry compared to the Big Fascists who control Wall Street and wage wars over Mideast oil. So to eradicate all fascists, we must kill the profit system that birthed them all, possible only when readers like you help build a mass Party of millions.

Break a fascist's face

The city of San Francisco is a target because it is what is termed by the bosses as a "sanctuary city" that supposedly shelters immigrant workers. It also draws the gutter racists' wrath because many residents of the city are antiracist, and it has a Black mayor. The initial rally permit was for Dolores Park in the Mission District (until recently home to many immigrant workers) but the night before the venue was changed to the UN Plaza.

The day of, the racist scum from "Team Save America" totaled six people and were defended by a force of approximately 300 kkkops. They were met by close to 400 anti-fascists.When the fascists arrived they were escorted behind a barricade by the police and they tried to speak. We shouted them down and threw plastic bottles of water to shut them down. Someone beat up one fascist, another fighter punched their leader, Philip Anderson, breaking his two front teeth. The fascists spoke for less than 10 minutes before being whisked away under police escort.

A few PL'ers organized a small contingent to attend the counter-demonstration. As a student newer to the Party said, "We are here for two reasons: One is to clear the streets of fascists and defend the right of protest for the working class, and secondly to recruit anti-fascists to the PLP." We distributed over 300 leaflets and dozens of copies of CHALLENGE to the anti-fascist fighters, and made contacts.

PLP says, **No free speech for fascists!** Fascist words and movements have led to genocidal state terror and the slaughter of tens of millions of workers in the past 90 years. Fascist terror in the U.S. more recently took the lives of Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017 and two antiracists protesting the police shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin. We have learned the lesson—fascist words kill, and we must stop fascists from promoting racist violence when necessary.

Organizing to protect ourselves in the present as a united working class is necessary, but it is not our only goal as a Party. Our goal, as the international PLP, is to win millions of workers and students to the reality that fascism directly results from capitalism in crisis and decay, and that both will only be destroyed with communist revolution!

Liberal politicians & kkkops attack the working class

The city's Black liberal mayor, London Breed, spent at least $96,000 on overtime police pay to send the force of 300 to defend the fascists. This is the same mayor who promised, this past June, to reallocate funds from the police and into reforms to supposedly benefit Black workers. But like all liberal politicians, when push came to shove, Breed sent out the kkkops to defend the capitalists and their private property.

The racist cops' defense of fascist groups while attacking anti-racists is nothing new, and we should never expect them to be "neutral" in these struggles. Throughout this past summer we watched the bosses' attack dogs beat and arrest countless anti-racists in the streets, only to allow murdering teen Kyle Rittenhouse stroll past them with a smoking assault rifle. They all protect this racist capitalist state!

Only communism crushes fascism

Some 100 counter-protesters wearing black clothing and flak vests identified with "Antifa," short for anti-fascist. Antifa is a coalition of various groups including some who agree that violence against the far right is sometimes called for. The Antifa flag ("The Iron Front") echoes the bosses' lie that communism is like fascism, when in reality communists have been the greatest antiracist and anti-fascist force in history.

It was the communists who opposed fascism in Europe before and during World War II. It was the communists in the Soviet Union and the European partisans trained and organized by the Soviets who defeated Hitler. The Soviet Union lost millions of citizens in that conflict and the Nazis suffered 75 percent of their losses fighting the Soviets (Washington Post, 5/8/15). The U.S. and Great Britain held back and didn't enter the war in Europe until it was clear that the Soviets were winning and that other workers of Europe might follow their lead and throw out capitalism elsewhere.

As the drums of imperialist war become clearer on the horizon, PLP is fighting to build our anti-fascist movement of millions. When the international working class takes power again, we'll make sure that no seed of capitalism is ever allowed to grow—only communism. Fight fascism, join PLP!✪

We are here for two reasons: One is to clear the streets of fascists and defend the right of protest for the working class, and secondly to recruit anti-fascists to the PLP."

- a communist student leader

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